

The Beatitudes

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Guidelines for achieving true happiness

The Ten Commandments

God's laws for His people to follow

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven

- That you understand that God has given you all the great things or blessings and **we should be very thankful and even willing to give them up or share them with others.** All our things on earth don't matter because we can't take it with us to Heaven which will be more amazing than we can imagine.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven

- **Being poor in spirit means that we aren't attached to all the things that we have.**
- **Do not be attached to our possessions, be grateful for what we have and share willingly with others.**

2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- Mourning is when we're really sad. Maybe you've cried because you got hurt or someone you knew died but this is different than that. **This is being very upset about those people that haven't heard about God or even about the sin in your life.** You might not think about these things very much yet but as you get closer to God, this will bother you and that's okay. God promises to comfort us when we need it.

2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- Showing sorrow over our sins and the sins of others. God will comfort us.**

3. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

- **Being meek is being patient, not easily angered and not thinking of yourself too highly.** The following Bible story is an example of the Pharisees not living this Beatitude. The Pharisees would make sure people knew that they were fasting and praying and seemed proud about what they were doing for God. Except God is looking for us to do these things without putting on a show for others, but doing it just for God, not for approval from others. Doing a nice, kind thing for someone is super, but we can always keep on doing that, plus more, just because it is the right thing to do.

3. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

- Be gentle, kind, and nice to others. To face the wrongs others do to us with patience.**

4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

- We hunger and thirst for righteousness, not for food and drink. This means that we hunger for the goodness of the Lord. To be truly hungry and thirsty you might have to go without food or water for more than a day or two. God wants us to need and feel like we're starving for righteousness and He will fill us up with it.

4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

- Hunger for the Good News of the Lord**

5. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

- To have mercy is to be loving and kind to others. This doesn't mean just being loving and kind to your family and friends but also to those who you might not know and even those you don't like.

5. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

- **To imitate God by showing mercy to others and to forgive injuries (wrongs)**

6. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

- Being pure is like having a clean heart. Jesus is talking about the place where we think and make decisions, why we do things, and our thoughts. If we keep our mind, thoughts and decisions full of good, God says we'll understand Him more. Try to do good for unselfish reasons, not for gain. Avoid bad actions, words, thoughts.

6. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

- To do good and to make the right decisions because it is the way God wants us to live**

7. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

- The simplest way to explain this is someone who makes peace. Helping others to get along would be a big part of it. The second part of this beatitude says: then you will be called the children of God. Being God's child would mean that you truly are a part of God's family and that you're starting to be more like Him; just like we are with our parents.

7. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

- **Live in peace and try to bring peace to others**

8. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- God knows that being who He wants is not the way the world acts. By doing the opposite of the world, we will be made fun of or worse because people don't understand why we don't do things only for ourselves. By living a life doing things for others confuses the way the world thinks. A lot of people in the world want beauty, money, and don't care about others as long as they get what they want. This is opposite to the life God wants us to lead. Doing the right thing isn't easy, but God wants us to know that the kingdom of Heaven is waiting for us if we can get through the tough times in this life.

8. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- There is a reward for living your life the right way...The Kingdom of Heaven.